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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

21 FEBRUARY 2019

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Martinez – Second Shooting Threat Reported at Martinez Junior High School

(U) Staff at Martinez Junior High School found threats of a school shooting written on a bathroom wall for the second time in two days on Wednesday, but school officials maintain that there is no credible threat to the safety of their students. Officers arrested and booked a boy into juvenile hall on Tuesday after finding a threat written on a bathroom mirror, but determined the threat was not credible. SOURCE: 20 February 2019, <u>SF Gate</u>

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia - Authorities Arrest Coast Guard Officer Who Planned Mass Attack

(U) Washington DC – US authorities arrested a US Coast Guard lieutenant who described himself as a white nationalist and amassed a cache of weapons to "murder innocent civilians on a scale rarely seen in this country," according to court documents. Christopher Paul Hasson, who is assigned to the Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington and lives in a Maryland suburb, had drawn up a list of possible targets, including House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and MSNBC television host Joe Scarborough, court documents allege. The prosecutors said agents found 15 firearms and more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition in Hasson's residence in Silver Spring, Maryland. They said from 2017, Hasson routinely studied a manifesto by Norwegian far-right extremist Anders Behring Breivik, who in July 2011 killed eight people in downtown Oslo with a car bomb and then shot dead 69 people, many of them teenagers, at a Labour Party camp.

SOURCE: 20 February 2019, Reuters

(U) District of Columbia - Woman Who Joined ISIS Cannot Return to US

(U) Washington DC – US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Wednesday a woman born in the United States who joined the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) did not qualify for US citizenship and had no legal basis to return to the country. Hoda Muthana, 24, traveled to Syria over four years ago to join ISIS. She married a succession of ISIS fighters and went on Twitter to encourage attacks on the West. In media interviews this week from a detention camp in Syria, Muthana said she was sorry for her actions and wanted to return to her family in Alabama with her toddler son. Pompeo said Muthana was not a US citizen and would not be admitted into the United States.

SOURCE: 20 February 2019, Reuters

(U) District of Columbia – US-Based Hate Groups Rose to All Time High in 2018

(U) Washington DC – The number of hate groups operating in the United States rose 7 percent to an all-time high last year, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) said yesterday, attributing the increase largely to anti-immigrant rhetoric. The SPLC, which has tracked hate groups since 1971, found there were 1,020 operating in the United States in 2018, breaking the 1,018 record set in 2011. It marked the fourth consecutive year of growth. The SPLC defines hate groups as organizations with beliefs or practices that demonize a class of people. The number of groups has risen 30 percent since 2015. SOURCE: 20 February 2019, Reuters

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(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Brazil - Police Identify Airborne Drug Trafficking Network

(U) Sao Paulo – Brazilian federal police said on Thursday they were serving arrest warrants for 54 people over their alleged role in a vast drug trafficking network which specialized in airborne shipments to Brazil, the United States and Europe. Police said they had court orders to seize 47 planes and 13 properties containing more than 10,000 heads of cattle as part of the bust.

SOURCE: 21 February 2019, Reuters

(U) England – Police Think Airport Employee May Have Launched Drone Attack

(U) London – A drone attack that crippled London's Gatwick Airport for three days may have been carried out by a disgruntled current or former airport employee, British police believe. Officers have collected 130 witness statements and made 1,100 door-to-door inquiries, pulling in other police forces to help. The witness statements suggested the drone was operated by someone who knew the airport layout well. The attacker hid the drone behind buildings where it could not be taken down by anti-drone equipment. The operator also knew to fly the drone past air traffic control, where a ban on mobile phones would keep people from filming it.

SOURCE: 21 February 2019, Reuters

(U) Ireland – Drone Briefly Shuts Down Operations at Dublin Airport

(U) Dublin – Flight operations at Dublin airport were briefly suspended today due to the confirmed sighting of a drone over the airfield, marking the first time such disruption has been caused at an Irish airport. Dublin airport told passengers on its Twitter page that it had suspended operations, before resuming 15 minutes later. Drones are prohibited from operating within 3 miles of Irish airports during periods of aircraft operations, unless the operator has been given permission to do so.

SOURCE: 21 February 2019, Reuters

(U) Ukraine - Security Service Accuses Russia of Election Meddling

(U) Kiev – Ukraine's State Security Service SBU accused Russia today of meddling in the electoral process in Ukraine by creating illegal structures to help guarantee victory for a certain candidate. Ukraine holds a presidential election in late March. Its relations with Russia have been very poor since Moscow annexed the Crimea peninsula in 2014 and started backing armed separatists in eastern Ukraine. SBU deputy head Viktor Kononenko told a news briefing that a group of Russian citizens and their Ukrainian collaborators had used financial bribes to set up a network of people ready to vote for a certain candidate and to influence public opinion. Russian authorities have denied any interference in Ukraine's election.

SOURCE: 21 February 2019, Reuters

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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